

# CELEBRATION OF LABOR DAY STRONGLY TIED UP WITH RECOVERY ACT

**Paper Makers' Official Reports Good Progress in Starting Locals**

**Present Industrial Conditions.**

and will see to it that NRA principles are closely adhered to—Morrison Reviews History of Labor During Half Century—Cullen at New Haven, Says NRA is Result of Labor's Activities—Riviere Stirrs Audience in New Harbor to Great Enthusiasm.

A dozen other officials, besides Higgins, among scores of men whom they have formed, old locals reorganized or built up in Wisconsin, Michigan, California, Washington, Alabama,

radio signals close to coincidence with a message to the new union from the American Federation of Labor, delivered his address, and to Chicago, where General Johnson addressed the audience as the sponsor of the Chicago Federation of Labor. Both addresses were delivered over a national hookup and were heard by millions of workers in the United States. The address to the workers of the U.S. was heard by millions who listened over the radio.

A similar case occurred in Boston and other New England cities, where in nearly all cases extensive preparations for holding elaborate parades, field sports and other features, had to be abandoned when the strikers' demands were not met.

One of them was **Samuel B. Thompson**, where a committee representing the Maine State Federation of Labor had been working assiduously for months in preparing a splendid celebration, including a parade with many handsome floats, a program of field sports, league baseball games, open air

In a letter addressed to "All Carriers of Railroad subject to the Emergency Transportation Act," dated March 2, 1943, Joseph B. Eastman, Federal Coordinator of Railroads, sends the plain language of the company statute in that industry.

"Under Section 1 (c) of the Emergency Transportation Act," Eastman said, "the result is that it now unlawful for any railroad to:—

—(1) Refuse or in any way obstruct the right of its employees to join the labor organization of their choice.

—(2) Interfere in any way with the organizations of its employees.

—(3) Use its funds in maintaining so-called company unions.

—(4) Influence or coerce its employees in an effort to induce them to join or to remain members of any

between American League teams from all over the State, a grueling match and a grand ball, and at which more than 5,000 people were expected to be present. This had to be conding to a situation, ever since the U. S. A. was founded, Mr. Stivins said, "attempting to do anything to stop the baseball game, but with the enactment of the

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## PAPER MANUFACTURERS AGREE WITH UNION LEADERS THAT SHORTER HOURS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR INDUSTRY'S SUCCESS

Newburgh, N. Y., Manufacturer Says Without Restricting Production That NRA Plan Cannot Succeed—Wage Scales Subject of Further Analysis at Washington Hearing—Burns and Huggins Are Speakers.

—Requires any person seeking employment to sign a contract or agreement promising to join or not to join a labor organization. If the contract has been enforced, the railroad is required to notify its employees by an appropriate order that said contract has been discarded and is no longer in effect.

It will be noted that these provisions do not prohibit any particular form of labor contract, but they do give the railroad employees absolute freedom of choice in joining such organizations, without coercion or influence of any description on the part of the railroad management; and they

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**and of Daylight**  
**Saving Time** 350 LOCALS, NUMBERING ONE MILLION  
 Members, Added to A. F. of L. Roster  
**SINCE ENACTMENT OF RECOVERY ACT**

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# The Labor News

Official Organ of the  
MAINE STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR  
Published Monthly by  
The Maine State Federation of Labor  
Under Supervision of Robert E. Daggett, Frank C. McDonald, Alonzo P. Young and Clarence S. Burgess, Comm.  
James P. Gompers, Executive Editor  
Office: 19 Chapel St., Augusta, Maine  
Telephone Augusta 1775

The Official Organ of Organized Labor in Maine. Devoted to the Promotion of the Welfare of the Wage Earners and the Prosperity of Industry Through a Better Understanding and Cooperation Between Employer and Employee.  
An Exponent of a Square Deal for Both Sides. Constructive in Policy. Independent in Politics.

Subscription, One Year \$6.00. Price per Copy, 5 Cents.  
Entered as second-class matter November 14, 1932, at the Post Office at Augusta, Maine, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE MAINE STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

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SEPTEMBER, 1934

## Maine Repudiates Prohibition

Credits of Prohibition State to Big for Return of Individual Sovereignty.

By a conclusive vote of 3-to-1, the people of Maine have formally repudiated Volsteadism and all that it stands for—physical compulsion to enforce observance of an illogical law.

Maine marked the 56th State which had thus far made a bid for the return of her individual sovereignty, too lightly cast away on a wave of hysteria and post-war mauling. The enormous economic waste and business dislocation caused by prohibition will soon be at an end. Incidentally, the government will get back about \$4,000,000,000 of lost revenue annually—which has been going into the pockets of bootleggers, thugs and murderous racketeers. The American people learn slowly, but this lesson of what comes of tampering with the fundamental principles of the Constitution should never be forgotten.

As to the 100,000 prisoners, victims of this iniquitous law, these informants who have not been convicted of actual crimes of violence, should be freed at once. Every Governor of every State in the Union should hasten this policy of belated justice. What was a common practice in the days of Washington, namely, the making, transporting and selling of wine and spirits, has been made a crime by irrational idealists.

Justice and equity now demand that these prohibition prisoners be freed, in accordance with the mounting tide of public repudiation of those same laws that placed them behind the bars.

Let New England lead the work of liberation. Here, national liberty was born, and here it should never be allowed to die in a prohibition prison cell.

## WILLIAM GREEN AND THE NRA

Bar perhaps does not fully realize how fortunate it is in having a champion of the calibre of William Green on the NRA Labor Advisory Board.

The Federation's president has proved himself a statesman in his handling of labor's case at Recovery Administration headquarters. He has lost no opportunity to promote the interests of the workers under the NRA and his influence has been potent for good throughout the entire organization and has been felt in all its policies and activities. In seeking to advance the interests of the workers, he has had in mind the welfare of all, and his work has been constructive and helpful to the entire Nation.

"Bill" Green knows the worker's life, his dangers and hardships. As a miner he worked at one of the hardest and most dangerous of trades, and he can be depended upon to fight to get the worker everything within reason. But he will not waste time and energy seeking the impossible.

## Laying Down the Law Against Gangdom

Rhode Island Attorney-General Service Note That Real Crimes Are to Be Vigilantly Prosecuted.

Hard sledding is in store for gangsters in the future who invade Rhode Island, is the warning uttered by Attorney-General Hartigan. Speaking before the Rotary Club in the Biltmore Hotel, in Providence, he laid down the law against gangdom in general, who may see fit to defy the law and attempt to prey upon the citizens of that State.

He criticized the policy of allowing the calendar of criminal cases to become loaded down as a result of inaction. Calling attention to the fact that a multitude of such cases were of a minor character, he expressed his determination to make a clean-up without undue delay. He gave notice that somebody must take the bull by the horns and that he had been elected to office, he was going to do it.

The Attorney-General commented upon the fact that a large number of these stagnated minor cases were for infractions of the beer and liquor laws. Alluding indirectly to the tidal wave of repeal, he stated that he would discontinue every one

of such cases unless the police authorities moved for an immediate trial. He caustically speculated their late before a Rhode Island jury of the present day and in view of the attitude of a typical Rhode Island jury? Against speakeasies and gambling devices, he promised unrelenting warfare.

It is very evident from an understanding of Mr. Hartigan's speech, that a new era has come to Rhode Island. The old impossible partnership between an irrational law, such as prohibition, and resolute and determined public opposition to its enforcement on the part of the public, has come to an end. Clear-cut important cases of liquor violation will continue to be prosecuted, but the police must no longer make the court calendar a wastebasket for minor law infractions that carry their own absurdity on their face. The law will henceforth be more directed toward suppressing real and serious crime, and the comic opera of Volsteadism will have the judicial curtain run down. The day of straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel has gone by.

## Slow Progress of Remedial Legislation

Workers' Compensation Was Cause of 20 Years of Unending Battle in Massachusetts Legislature

Speaking at a Labor convention in the adjoining State of Massachusetts, Robert J. Watt, secretary and legislative agent of the Massachusetts State Federation of Labor, called attention to the fact that what Labor had won in the past it had been obliged to fight for, long and hard.

He mentioned one case, that of Workmen's Compensation, which for nearly 20 years was a cause of an unending battle in the State Legislature. Looked on at first as freak and radical legislation, it took about a generation of hard work, year after year, in and out of the State House, to convince the slow-moving conservatives that Workmen's Compensation was in fact only common human justice and of great benefit alike to the local community, the State and the Nation.

Today, nobody who has given the matter serious thought would seek to repeal this law. It has justified itself a thousand manifold times in relieving the unfortunate individual, and even the local community, of a grievous burden which properly belonged to industry where that disability had been incurred.

But this is only one phase of the matter. Labor is constantly faced with new problems as well as old injustices. It is time for all the workers to stand together and work for complete organization. With their united voices, voices and efforts, they can compel the granting of their obvious rights. Unorganized, or disorganized, they are a prey to economic exploitation and political disregard. The motto, then, is: Organize, now, at once, and without the loss of a day.

## Annual Memorial Roll Call

Let Us Forget the Deeds of Past Leaders and the Incalculable Debt of Gratitude Due Them

It seems but fitting and proper that there should be an annual observance of roll call meeting in honored memory of the great leaders of the movement who have gone before, and by whose energy, sacrifice and ceaseless labors this great movement became first a living actuality and next the powerful agency for human good and welfare which it is today.

The Labor News suggests that in every local union throughout the land, and especially in all Central Labor Union bodies, such annual commemorative services be held. This would afford a fitting opportunity to pay tribute to the memory of these great leaders, exemplify their words and deeds that from such a public testimonial the present leaders may take renewed courage and the lowest man in the ranks may be inspired.

From such outstanding figures in the Temple of Labor as Gompers, Mitchell, McGuire and others, fame and glory will never depart. But, generations pass swiftly on, mighty social and economic changes are taking place.

This annual memorial roll call of our great and honored departed brothers is necessary, not that we can add anything to their renown, but lest the coming generation should forget the incalculable debt of gratitude which is due to these great founders and leaders of the cause of Labor.

## SPEED UP BUILDING PROGRAM

The demand for speed in the Government's titanic-wide public works program grows more insistent. There is quite evidently something wrong with the administration of the fund. It is not moving fast enough to put men to work. Employment and purchasing power are lagging behind prices, threatening disaster to the recovery program.

The feeling is abroad that Secretary of the Interior Ickes, Public Works Administrator, is placing too much emphasis on the necessity of moving slowly and carefully in order to avoid graft and waste. As the Business Week says, his policy is highly commendable—to a certain point, or under normal conditions.

"But these aren't normal conditions," the Business Week adds. "There is a grim necessity that jobs be made—and quickly—unless we are to have grave social and economic disturbances this winter."

## The Proper Nutcracker---30-Hour Week!

Reveals the Laborer by John M. West



One of the most feasible ways in which to shorten unemployment is to shorten the work-day and the work-week. To illustrate, if a reservoir had an inlet too great for the outlet capacity, it would flow over. In like manner, when production overwhelmingly outstrips consumption, it is evident that the two must be brought into balance unless chaos is to ensue.

There will have to be adjustments and readjustments before the long train of old abuses can be corrected; but in the meantime it is easy to recognize the principle of a balanced production matched to equal consuming power.

The 30-hour week, consisting of five days of six hours each, will help greatly in turning about that desired end.

In many industries, it can be employed with a minimum of disturbance. Its eventual adoption as a general rule can only be a matter of time if the country is ever to get out from the present overburden of excess labor and insufficient buying power. It may be a hard nut to crack, but the 30-hour week is a likely nut-cracker, as the illustration shows.

## N. R. A. is the Badge of Honor

Business Men Cannot Afford to Risk Failure of the Recovery Act

The NRA is the sign and symbol of the Recovery Act. When that banner, the house of the great army of unemployed will begin to get back to work. And when men resume employment, the depression will fade away—in like proportion.

Washington is asking for hearty and honest cooperation. Nobody but the most short-sighted manufacturers and employers would try to deny or evade it. If the Recovery Act should fail it would mean another tremendous collapse beggarly anything that has gone before. Business men who are worthy of the name can surely see that they cannot afford to have this happen?

But, in a small percentage of recalcitrants, for their own selfish ends, seek to nullify the honest cooperative efforts of the loyal supporters of the government. Then Washington has a full hand of trumps to play. These trumps consist of such drastic pains and penalties as may well cause the obstructions, stop, drop, and listen."

General Johnson has looked a hint about the air going to be filled with "dead cats"—in certain contingencies. So, the NRA opposers may well choose to be live heroes and patriots rather than "dead cats," for the choice must be made. The destructive reign of Mammon has brought us to the reign of Iro.

## Ban on Child Labor Justifies N. R. A.

Marks Contribution to Economic Justice and Human Regard

If the National Recovery Act accomplished nothing more in the world than the banning of child labor, it would have justified its existence. This is perhaps the greatest contribution to economic justice and human regard that this century has witnessed. It means that the tender youth of the Nation are to be allowed to grow up in their God-ordained freedom from the hardship of premature toil. It means that never again shall there be the sad and insufferable spectacle of children working and taking the places of their parents, who are by that very act, deprived of fulfilling their normal duties of support.

Child labor displaces adult workers and impoverishes the community. With the decline of buying power, a reaction sets in which is progressive in its demoralizing tendencies. Moreover, upon the vigorous health and strength of the growing youth of the land, the stability of the nation itself depends. We are burning the candle at both ends at one and the same time, when we fetter happy childhood with the bonds of premature toil.

To President Roosevelt should go all honor for setting his face sternly against child labor. Roosevelt is a sailor in spirit and the free blowing winds of the sea have given him a clear mind and a rugged resolution. Millions of children, yet un-

born, will hail his name as next to that of Lincoln, an Emancipator of another day and to a different race.

## BIG FORWARD STEP

Secretary of the Interior Ickes, as Public Works Administrator, advocates spending millions to eliminate disease-breeding, crime-producing slums. He has already made allotments of money from the \$3,300,000,000 public works fund for slum elimination projects.

If Secretary Ickes' stand means the beginning of the end of slums in America, he should go down in history as a great benefactor. Slums have for decades been a disgrace in this richest of all nations. To rid the cities of their menace will be a long step forward in civilization.

The immediate results of slum elimination projects will be the making of employment, now the most important task before the country. But its long range effects will mean a lessening of disease, vice and crime, of abject poverty, of other grave evils. Good housing to replace wretched slum dwellings will mean more health, happiness and general well being—in short, a better America.

## Foul Declaration by Eminent Lawyer

Reference to Child Labor Law as "Communist Effort" by Bar Association, President Criticized by All Believers in Fair Play for the Child

Lawyers everywhere, from Chief Justice Hughes of the United States Supreme Court down to the humblest tyro lately graduated from law school, are bowed in shame or angered beyond expression by the tirade in support of child labor launched in his opening address to the American Bar Association convention by its president, Clarence E. Martin. At the Federal Child Labor Amendment, according to press reports, he shrieked:

"It is a communistic effort to nationalize children, making them primarily responsible to the Government instead of to their parents. It strikes at the home. It appears to be a definite, positive plan to destroy the Republic and substitute a social democracy."

The Child Labor Amendment, which is supported wholeheartedly by hundreds of great publications, by practically all women's organizations and by welfare organizations everywhere, by the entire organized labor movement, by President Roosevelt and a long list of his predecessors, simply confers upon Congress the right to regulate, limit and prohibit the employment of persons under 18 years of age for the purpose of preventing un-American employers from turning the tender bodies and minds of our future citizens into interest coupons and dividend checks.

And this resilly noble policy, according to the President of the American Bar Association, is "a communistic effort to nationalize children," "strikes at the home," and aims to "destroy the Republic." All thinking people will ask whether a mind can make so foul a declaration as this and be sane.

## LABOR QUERIES

Questions and Answers on Labor: What It Has Done Where It Stands on Problems of the Day: Its Aims and Program: Who's Who in the Ranks of the Organized Tailors, etc., etc.

Q.—Who introduced the bill passed by Congress limiting Labor Day a legal holiday?  
A.—Senator James H. Kyle of North Dakota. The bill was signed by President Cleveland on June 23, 1894.

Q.—Who said: "The long as there is one man who seeks employment and cannot obtain it, the hours of labor are too long?"  
A.—Samuel Gompers.

Q.—What was the purpose of organizing the Union Labor Trade Department of the American Federation of Labor?  
A.—It was organized to "promote a greater demand for production by the union label and if labor performed by union workers to investigate into, advise, recommend and within the limits of its authority carry into effect methods for the advancement of union-label products."

Q.—What were the last great organization of shoe workers in the United States?  
A.—The Knights of St. Crispin, organized in 1867. The body reached its zenith in 1869, and by 1874 its power was departed.

Q.—What was the oldest union in the building trades?  
A.—The Operative Plasterers' International Association, established in 1864, and the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers International Union of America, organized in 1863.

Q.—Does the Order of Railroad Telegraphers cover more than the United States?  
A.—The territorial jurisdiction of this organization is given as the United States and possessions, Canada, Mexico and "other countries of the world."

Q.—Will the coming convention of the American Federation of Labor be the first held in Washington, D. C.?  
A.—No. The Federation met in Washington in 1900 and 1920.

Q.—Who was the first president of the Brotherhood of the Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen?  
A.—John J. McGuire.

Q.—Who was the first president of the International Printing Trades Association organized in 1911?  
A.—March 1, 1911.

Q.—Who was the first president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 100, in 1904?  
A.—John J. McGuire.

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